Hanrahan Loses Bid to Dismiss Charges Over Raid on Panthers

Post 8/8/72

CHICAGO, Aug. 7 (UPI)—A judge refused today to dismiss charges that Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan and 13 co-defendants conspired to alter and conceal evidence about a police weapons raid in which two Black Panther Party leaders died.

Defense attorneys asked Cook County Circuit Court Judge Philip Romiti to dismiss the charges after a special week-long hearing on recently uncovered statements seemingly contradicting testimony by survivors of the Dec. 4, 1969, raid that Panthers did not fire on police.

Romiti said that although "some important and disturbing matters heretofore unknown" had been introduced "this motion to acquit is prematurely made."

Romiti then ordered the bench trial of Hanrahan, one of his assistants and 12 Chicago policemen to resume. The trial was suspended for hearings on the validity of the statements.

Defense attorneys moved for acquittal on the grounds that the statements, taken 2½ years ago from three survivors of the raid, showed the defendants had been indicted on the basis of perjured testimony.

According to defense attorneys, one survivor admits in the statements to firing two shots at police, and one other Panther testified to seeing another party member fire at least one shot at the raiders.